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Economic and Social Council

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Item 13 (h)
Economic and environmental questions: international cooperation in tax matters

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Luis Alfonso de Alba (Mexico), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution E/2012/L.20

Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2004/69 of 11 November 2004 and 2011/23 of 27 July 2011,

Recognizing the call made in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[1] for the strengthening of international tax cooperation through enhanced dialogue among national tax authorities and greater coordination of the work of the concerned multilateral bodies and relevant regional organizations, giving special attention to the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,[2]

Recalling the request to the Economic and Social Council made in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development[3] and the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development[4] to examine the strengthening of the institutional arrangements to promote international cooperation in tax matters, including the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters,[5]

Recognizing that, while each country is responsible for its tax system, it is important to support efforts in these areas by strengthening technical assistance and

[1] See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Ibid., para. 64.

[3] General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex.

[4] General Assembly resolution 63/303, annex.

[5] General Assembly resolution 63/239, annex, para. 16, and Assembly resolution 63/303, annex, para. 56 (*c*).

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enhancing international cooperation and participation in addressing international tax matters, including in the area of double taxation,

Recognizing also the need for an inclusive, participatory and broad-based dialogue on international cooperation in tax matters,

Noting the activities developing within the concerned multilateral bodies and relevant subregional and regional organizations, and recognizing the need to promote collaboration between the United Nations and other international bodies dealing with cooperation in tax matters,

Welcoming the discussion in the Economic and Social Council on 15 March 2012 on international cooperation in tax matters,[6]

Taking note of the report of the Committee on its seventh session,[7]

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to implement the mandate given to it in Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/69, and encourages the Committee to continue its efforts in this regard;

2. *Takes note* of the 2011 revised version of the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries developed by the Committee, and its publication in the English-language version, and requests that:

(a) The Convention continue to be made freely available in downloadable form from the website of the Financing for Development Office of the Secretariat;

(b) The Convention be translated into the other official languages of the United Nations and published in those languages as soon as possible after the publication of the English-language version;

3. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the role and work of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters,[8] and acknowledges the need for enhanced dialogue among national tax authorities on issues related to international cooperation in tax matters;

4. *Recognizes* the need for continued consultations to explore options with regard to the strengthening of institutional arrangements to promote international cooperation in tax matters, including on the issue of the conversion of the Committee into an intergovernmental subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council;

5. *Emphasizes* that it is important for the Committee to enhance its collaboration with other international organizations active in the area of international tax cooperation, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;

6. *Decides* to hold a one-day meeting in the first half of 2013 to consider international cooperation in tax matters, including institutional arrangements to promote such cooperation;

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[6] See www.un.org/esa/ffd/tax/2012ICTM/index.htm.

[7] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 25* (E/2011/45).

[8] E/2012/8.

7. *Encourages* the President of the Economic and Social Council to issue invitations to representatives of national tax authorities to attend the meeting;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council on further progress achieved in strengthening the work of the Committee and its cooperation with concerned multilateral bodies and relevant regional and subregional organizations;

9. *Recognizes* the work of the Financing for Development Office in developing, within its mandate, a capacity development programme in international tax cooperation aimed at strengthening the capacity of the ministries of finance and the national tax authorities in developing countries to develop more effective and efficient tax systems, which support the desired levels of public and private investment, and to combat tax evasion, and requests the Office, in partnership with other stakeholders, to continue its work in this area;

10. *Stresses* the need for appropriate funding for the subsidiary bodies of the Committee to enable those bodies to fulfil their mandates;

11. *Reiterates*, in this regard, its appeal to Member States, relevant organizations and other potential donors to consider contributing generously to the Trust Fund for International Cooperation in Tax Matters established by the Secretary-General in order to supplement regular budgetary resources, and invites the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to that end.